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## A FIXED POINT APPROACH TO STABILITY OF THE QUARTIC EQUATION IN 2-BANACH SPACES

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**Abstract.** In this paper, we prove the generalized Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the quartic functional equation

$$f(2x + y) + f(2x - y) = 4f(x + y) + 4f(x - y) + 24f(x) - 6f(y)$$

by using the direct method and the fixed point method in 2-Banach spaces.

Keywords: Hyers-Ulam stability; 2-Banach space; Quartic functional equation.

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### 1. Introduction and preliminaries

In 1940, S. M. Ulam [19] asked the first question on the stability problem for mappings. In 1941, D. H. Hyers [12] solved the problem of Ulam. This result was generalized by Aoki [4] for additive mappings and by Th. M. Rassias [18] for linear mappings by considering an unbounded Cauchy difference. The paper of Th. M. Rassias has provided a lot of influence in the development of what we now call Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of functional equations. In 1994, a further generalization was obtained by P. Găvruta

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[11]. During the last two decades, a number of papers and research monographs have been published on various generalizations and applications of the generalized Hyers-Ulam stability to a number of functional equations and mappings.

In the middle of 1960s, S. Gähler [9,10] introduced the concept of linear 2-normed spaces.

We recall some basic facts concerning 2-normed spaces and some preliminary results. **Definition 1.1.** *let* X *be a real linear space with* dimX > 1 *and*  $\|.,.\| : X \times X \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$  *be a function satisfying the following properties:* 

- (1) ||x, y|| = 0 if and only if x and y are linearly dependent,
- (2) ||x,y|| = ||y,x||,
- (3)  $\|\lambda x, y\| = |\lambda| \|x, y\|,$
- (4)  $||x, y + z|| \le ||x, y|| + ||x, z||$

for all  $x, y, z \in X$  and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then the function  $\|.,.\|$  is called a 2-norm on X and the pair  $(X, \|.,.\|)$  is called a linear 2-normed space. Sometimes the condition (4) called the triangle inequality.

**Example 1.2.** For  $x = (x_1, x_2)$ ,  $y = (y_1, y_2) \in E = \mathbb{R}^2$ , the Euclidean 2-norm  $||x, y||_E$  is defined by

$$||x, y||_E = |x_1y_2 - x_2y_1|.$$

**Definition 1.3.** A sequence  $\{x_k\}$  in a 2-normed space X is called a convergent sequence if there is an  $x \in X$  such that

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} \|x_k - x, y\| = 0$$

for all  $y \in X$ . If  $\{x_k\}$  converges to x, write  $x_k \longrightarrow x$  as  $k \longrightarrow \infty$  and call x the limit of  $\{x_k\}$ . In this case, we also write  $\lim_{k\to\infty} x_k = x$ .

**Definition 1.4.** A sequence  $\{x_k\}$  in a 2-normed space X is said to be a Cauchy sequence with respect to the 2-norm if

$$\lim_{k,l\to\infty} \|x_k - x_l, y\| = 0,$$

for all  $y \in X$ . If every Cauchy sequence in X converges to some  $x \in X$ , then X is said to be complete with respect to the 2-norm. Any complete 2-normed space is said to be a 2-Banach space.

Now, we state the following results as lemma (See [16] for the details).

Lemma 1.5. Let X be a 2-normed space. Then,

- $(1) \ |||x,z|| ||y,z||| \le ||x-y,z|| \ for \ all \ x,y,z \in X,$
- (2) if ||x, z|| = 0 for all  $z \in X$ , then x = 0,
- (3) for a convergent sequence  $x_n$  in X,

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \|x_n, z\| = \left\|\lim_{n \to \infty} x_n, z\right\|$$

for all  $z \in X$ .

In [16], Won-Gil Park has investigated approximate additive mappings, approximate Jensen mappings and approximate quadratic mappings in 2-Banach spaces. In [3], A. Alotaibi and S.A. Mohiuddine have investigated stability of the cubic functional equation in random 2-normed spaces.

In [15], S.H. Lee, S.M. Im and I.S. Hwang considered the following functional equation

(1) 
$$f(2x+y) + f(2x-y) = 4f(x+y) + 4f(x-y) + 24f(x) - 6f(y)$$

and they established the general solution and the stability problem for the functional equation (1) (see also [17]). It is easy to show that the function  $f(x) = x^4$  satisfies the functional equation (1), which is called a quartic functional equation and every solution of the quartic functional equation is said to be a quartic mapping.

In this paper, we prove the Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the quartic functional equation (1) in 2-Banach spaces by using the direct method and fixed point method.

### 2. Stability of the functional equation (1): Direct method

In this section, we investigate the generalized Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the quartic functional equation (1) in 2-Banach spaces. Let X be a linear space and Y be a 2-Banach space with dimY>1. For convenience, we use the following abbreviation for a given mapping  $f:X\to Y$ 

(2) 
$$Df(x,y) := f(2x+y) + f(2x-y) - 4f(x+y) - 4f(x-y) - 24f(x) + 6f(y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ .

**Theorem 2.1.** Let  $\varphi: X \times X \longrightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be a function such that

(3) 
$$\widetilde{\varphi}(x,y) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^{4k}} \varphi(2^k x, 2^k y) < \infty$$

(4) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \varphi(2^n x, 2^n y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Suppose that  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping with

(5) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\| \le \varphi(x,y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then, there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  such that

(6) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z|| \le \frac{1}{32}\widetilde{\varphi}(x, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** Putting x = y = 0 in (5), we obtain f(0) = 0. Putting y = 0 in (5), we get

(7) 
$$\left\|\frac{1}{16}f(2x) - f(x), z\right\| \le \frac{1}{32}\varphi(x, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . If we replace x by  $2^n x$  in (7) and divide both sides of (7) by  $2^{4n}$ , we infer that

$$\left\|\frac{1}{2^{4(n+1)}}f(2^{n+1}x) - \frac{1}{2^{4n}}f(2^nx), z\right\| \le \frac{1}{2^{4n+5}}\varphi(2^nx, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , all  $z \in Y$  and integers  $n \ge 1$ . Hence, we have

$$\left\|\frac{1}{2^{4(n+1)}}f(2^{(n+1)}x) - \frac{1}{2^{4m}}f(2^mx), z\right\| \le \sum_{i=m}^n \left\|\frac{1}{2^{4(i+1)}}f(2^{(i+1)}x) - \frac{1}{2^{4i}}f(2^ix), z\right\|$$

$$(8) \qquad \qquad \le \frac{1}{32}\sum_{i=m}^n \frac{1}{2^{4i}}\varphi(2^ix, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , all  $z \in Y$  and all non-negative integers m and n with  $n \ge m$ . Therefore, we conclude from (3), (4) and (8) that the sequence  $\left\{\frac{1}{2^{4n}}f(2^nx)\right\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in Y for all  $x \in X$ . Since Y is complete, the sequence  $\left\{\frac{1}{2^{4n}}f(2^nx)\right\}$  converges in Y for all  $x \in X$ . So, we can define the mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  by

(9) 
$$Q(x) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} f(2^n x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . That is

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \left\| \frac{1}{2^{4n}} f(2^n x) - Q(x), z \right\| = 0$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Letting m = 0 and passing the limit  $n \longrightarrow \infty$  in (8), we get the inequality (6). Now, we show that  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  is a quartic mapping. It follows from (3), (5), (9) and Lemma 1.5 that

$$\|DQ(x,y),z\| = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \|Df(2^n x, 2^n y), z\| \le \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \varphi(2^n x, 2^n y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . By Lemma 1.6, we obtain that DQ(x, y) = 0 for all  $x, y \in X$ . So, the mapping  $Q : X \longrightarrow Y$  is quartic. To prove the uniqueness of Q, let  $A : X \longrightarrow Y$  be another quartic mapping satisfying (6). Since the mapping  $A : X \longrightarrow Y$  satisfies (1), then by letting y = 0 in (1) we get  $A(2x) = 2^4 f(x)$  for all  $x \in X$ . Therefore, we have

$$\|Q(x) - A(x), z\| = \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{2^{4n}} \|Q(2^n x) - A(2^n x), z\| \le \frac{1}{32} \lim_{n \to \infty} \widetilde{\varphi}(2^n x, 0) = 0$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . By Lemma 1.6, ||Q(x) - A(x)|| = 0 for all  $x \in X$ . So Q = A. This proves the uniqueness of Q.

**Corollary 2.2.** Let  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  be a normed space and  $(Y, \|., .\|_Y)$  be a 2-Banach space. Let  $\epsilon$  and p be nonnegative real numbers with p < 4 and let  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping fulfilling

(10) 
$$\|Df(x,y), z\|_{Y} \le \epsilon(\|x\|_{X}^{p} + \|y\|_{X}^{p})$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$ such that

(11) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z||_Y \le \frac{\epsilon}{32 - 2^{p+1}} ||x||_X^p$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** In Theorem 2.1, let  $\varphi(x, y) = \epsilon (||x||_X^p + ||y||_X^p)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then (10) implies that f(0) = 0. So we obtain (11) from (6).

**Theorem 2.3.** Let  $\varphi: X \times X \longrightarrow [0, +\infty)$  be a function such that

(12) 
$$\widetilde{\varphi}(x,y) := \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{3^{4k}} \varphi(3^k x, 3^k y) < \infty$$

(13) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{3^{4n}} \varphi(3^n x, 3^n y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in X$ . Suppose that  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping with

(14) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\| \le \varphi(x,y)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then, there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  such that

(15) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z|| \le \frac{1}{81} \left( \widetilde{\varphi}(x, x) + 2\widetilde{\varphi}(x, 0) \right)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** Putting x = y = 0 in (14), we get f(0) = 0. Replacing y by x in (14), we get

(16) 
$$||f(3x) - 4f(2x) - 17f(x), z|| \le \varphi(x, x)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Letting y = 0 in (14), we obtain

(17) 
$$||2f(2x) - 32f(x), z|| \le \varphi(x, 0)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . From (16) and (17), we get

(18) 
$$\left\|\frac{1}{81}f(3x) - f(x), z\right\| \le \frac{1}{81}\left(\varphi(x, x) + 2\varphi(x, 0)\right)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . We replace x by  $3^n x$  in (18) and divide both sides of (18) by  $3^{4n}$ , we infer that

$$\left\|\frac{1}{3^{4(n+1)}}f(3^{n+1}x) - \frac{1}{3^{4n}}f(3^nx), z\right\| \le \frac{1}{3^{4n+4}}\left(\varphi(x,x) + 2\varphi(x,0)\right)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , all  $z \in Y$  and integers  $n \ge 1$ . Hence, we have

$$\left\|\frac{1}{3^{4(n+1)}}f(3^{(n+1)}x) - \frac{1}{3^{4m}}f(3^mx), z\right\| \le \sum_{i=m}^n \left\|\frac{1}{3^{4(i+1)}}f(3^{(i+1)}x) - \frac{1}{3^{4i}}f(3^ix), z\right\|$$

(19) 
$$\leq \frac{1}{81} \sum_{i=m}^{n} \frac{1}{3^{4i}} \varphi(3^{i}x, 3^{i}x) + \frac{1}{81} \sum_{i=m}^{n} \frac{1}{3^{4i}} \varphi(3^{i}x, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$ , all  $z \in Y$  and all non-negative integers m and n with  $n \ge m$ . Therefore, we conclude from (12), (13) and (19) that the sequence  $\left\{\frac{1}{3^{4n}}f(3^nx)\right\}$  is a Cauchy sequence in Y for all  $x \in X$ . Since Y is complete, there exists a mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  defined by

(20) 
$$Q(x) := \lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{3^{4n}} f(3^n x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ . Letting m = 0 and passing the limit  $n \longrightarrow \infty$  in (19), we get the inequality (15). The rest of the proof is similar to the proof of Theorem 2.1.

**Corollary 2.4.** Let  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  be a normed space and  $(Y, \|., .\|_Y)$  be a 2-Banach space. Let  $\epsilon$  and p be nonnegative real numbers with p < 4 and lat  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping fulfilling

(21) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\|_{Y} \le \epsilon \left(\|x\|_{X}^{p} + \|y\|_{X}^{p}\right)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  such that

(22) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z||_Y \le \frac{4\epsilon}{81 - 3^p} ||x||_X^p$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** In Theorem 2.3, let  $\varphi(x, y) = \epsilon (||x||_X^p + ||y||_X^p)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then (21) implies that f(0) = 0. So we obtain (22) from (15).

**Corollary 2.5.** Let  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  be a normed space and  $(Y, \|., .\|_Y)$  be a 2-Banach space. Let  $\epsilon, p$  and q be nonnegative real numbers with p + q < 4 and let  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping fulfilling

(23) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\|_{Y} \le \epsilon \left(\|x\|_{X}^{p},\|y\|_{X}^{q}\right)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  such that

(24) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z||_Y \le \frac{\epsilon}{81 - 3^{p+q}} ||x||_X^{p+q}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** In Theorem 2.3, let  $\varphi(x, y) = \epsilon (||x||_X^p + ||y||_X^q)$  for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then (23) implies that f(0) = 0. So we obtain (24) from (15).

# 3. Stability of the functional equation (1): Fixed point method

In this section, we investigate the generalized Hyers-Ulam-Rassias stability of the quartic functional equation (1) by using fixed point method in 2-Banach spaces. We recall a fundamental result in fixed point theory.

Let X be a set. A function  $d: X \times X \to [0, \infty)$  is called a *generalized metric* on X if d satisfies :

- d(x, y) = 0 if and only if x = y,
- d(x, y) = d(y, x) for all  $x, y \in X$ ,
- $d(x,z) \le d(x,y) + d(y,z)$  for all  $x, y, z \in X$ .

**Theorem 3.1.** [8] Suppose we are given a complete generalized metric space (X, d) and a strictly contractive mapping  $J : X \to X$ , with the Lipshitz constant L < 1. If there exists a nonnegative integer k such that

$$d(J^k x, J^{k+1} x) < \infty$$

for some  $x \in X$ , then the following are true: (I) the sequence  $J^n x$  converges to a fixed point  $x^*$  of J; (II)  $x^*$  is the unique fixed point of J in the set  $Y = \{y \in X : d(J^k x, y) < \infty\};$ 

(III)  $d(y, x^*) \leq \frac{1}{1-L}d(y, Jy)$  for all  $y \in Y$ .

In 1996, Isac and Th.M. Rassias [14] were the first to provide applications of stability theory of functional equations for the proof of new fixed point theorems with applications.

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $f: X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping for which there exists a function  $\varphi: X^2 \longrightarrow [0, \infty)$  satisfying

$$\phi(x) := \varphi(x, x) + 2\varphi(x, 0),$$

(25) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\| \le \varphi(x,y)$$

and

(26) 
$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \frac{1}{3^{4n}} \varphi(3^n x, 3^n y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Let 0 < L < 1 be a constant such that  $\varphi(x, y) \leq 81L\varphi(\frac{x}{3}, \frac{y}{3})$ for all  $x, y \in X$ . Then, there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  satisfying

(27) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z|| \le \frac{1}{81(1-L)}\phi(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** Let us consider the set  $S := \{g : X \longrightarrow Y\}$  and introduce the generalized metric on S as follows:

$$d(g,h) = \inf\{\alpha \in [0,\infty) : \|g(x) - h(x), z\| \le \alpha \phi(x), \forall x \in X \text{ and } \forall z \in Y\}$$

where, as usual,  $inf \emptyset = +\infty$ . The proof of the fact that (S, d) is a complete generalized metric space can be found in [6]. Now, we consider the linear mapping  $J : S \longrightarrow S$  defined by

$$Jg(x) := \frac{1}{81}g(3x)$$

for all  $g \in S$  and all  $x \in X$ . First we assert that J is strictly contractive on S. For given  $g, h \in S$ , let  $\alpha \in [0, \infty)$  be an arbitrary constant with  $d(g, h) \leq \alpha$ , that is

$$\|g(x) - h(x), z\| \le \alpha \phi(x).$$

So we have

$$||Jg(x) - Jh(x), z|| = \frac{1}{81} ||g(3x) - h(3x), z|| \le \frac{1}{81} \alpha \phi(3x) \le \alpha L \phi(x)$$

for all  $g, h \in S$ , all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then,  $d(Jg, Jh) \leq Ld(g, h)$ ,  $\forall g, h \in S$ ; that is, J is a strictly contractive self-mapping on S with the Lipschitz constant L. Replacing y by x in (25), we have

(28) 
$$||f(3x) - 4f(2x) - 17f(x), z|| \le \varphi(x, x)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Letting y = 0 in (25), we get

(29) 
$$||2f(2x) - 32f(x), z|| \le \varphi(x, 0)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . From the inequalities (29) and (30), it follows that

$$||f(3x) - 81f(x), z|| \le (\varphi(x, x) + 2\varphi(x, 0))$$

Then,

(30) 
$$\|\frac{1}{81}f(3x) - f(x), z\| \le \frac{1}{81}\phi(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Hence,

$$d(f, Jf) \le \frac{1}{81}$$

for all  $f \in S$ . By Theorem 3.1, there exists a unique mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  satisfying the following:

Q is fixed point of J, that is, Q(3x) = 81Q(x) for all x ∈ X. The mapping Q is a unique fixed point of J in the set M = {g ∈ S : d(f,g) ≤ ∞}. This implies that Q is a unique mapping such that there exists α ∈ (0,∞) satisfying ||f(x) - Q(x), z|| ≤ αφ(x), for all x ∈ X and z ∈ Y.

•  $d(J^n, Q) \longrightarrow 0$  as  $n \longrightarrow \infty$ , which implies the equality

(31) 
$$\lim_{n \to +\infty} J^n f(x) = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{f(3^n x)}{3^{4n}} = Q(x)$$

for all  $x \in X$ .

(32) 
$$d(f,Q) \le \frac{1}{1-L}d(f,Jf) \le \frac{1}{81(1-L)}$$

which implies the inequality (28)

It follows from (25), (26) and (32), that

$$\|DQ(x,y),z\| = \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{3^{4n}} \|Df(3^n x, 3^n y), z\| \le \lim_{n \to +\infty} \frac{1}{3^{4n}} \varphi(3^n x, 3^n y) = 0$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Hence,  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  is a quartic mapping, as desired.

**Corollary 3.3.** Let  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  be a normed space and  $(Y, \|., .\|_Y)$  be a 2-Banach space. Let  $\epsilon$  and p be nonnegative real numbers with p < 4 and let  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping fulfilling

(33) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\|_{Y} \le \epsilon \left(\|x\|_{X}^{p} + \|y\|_{X}^{p}\right)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$  such that

(34) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z||_Y \le \frac{4\epsilon}{81 - 3^p} ||x||_X^p$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

**Proof.** Taking  $\varphi(x,y) = \epsilon(\|x\|_X^p + \|y\|_X^p)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and choosing  $L = 3^{p-4}$  in Theorem 3.2, we get the desired result.

**Corollary 3.4.** Let  $(X, \|.\|_X)$  be a normed space and  $(Y, \|., .\|_Y)$  be a 2-Banach space. Let  $\epsilon, p$  and q be nonnegative real numbers with p + q < 4 and let  $f : X \longrightarrow Y$  be a mapping fulfilling

(35) 
$$\|Df(x,y),z\|_{Y} \le \epsilon \left(\|x\|_{X}^{p},\|y\|_{X}^{q}\right)$$

for all  $x, y \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ . Then there exists a unique quartic mapping  $Q: X \longrightarrow Y$ such that

(36) 
$$||f(x) - Q(x), z||_Y \le \frac{\epsilon}{81 - 3^{p+q}} ||x||_X^{p+q}$$

for all  $x \in X$  and all  $z \in Y$ .

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**Proof.** Taking  $\varphi(x,y) = \epsilon(\|x\|_X^p, \|y\|_X^q)$  for all  $x, y \in X$  and choosing  $L = 3^{p+q-4}$  in Theorem 3.2, we get the desired result.

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